

Listing of Claims

Please cancel claims 12, 15-17, 19, 21, 23, 27, 30-32, 34, 36-38, 40, 42, 44 and 54-69 without prejudice, and add new claims 70 - 103. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. - 69. (Cancelled)

70. (New) A recombinant fusion polypeptide, comprising a multivalent immunogenic portion fused to an immunogenic polypeptide carboxy-terminal to the multivalent immunogenic portion, which protects the immunogenicity of the multivalent immunogenic portion, wherein the multivalent immunogenic portion comprises at least two immunogenic amino-terminal polypeptides of Group A streptococcal M protein from at least two different streptococcal serotypes, wherein each of the immunogenic amino-terminal polypeptides is at least 10 amino acids in length, and wherein the immunogenic polypeptide carboxy-terminal to the multivalent immunogenic portion is a reiteration of the immunogenic amino-terminal polypeptide from the amino terminus of the multivalent immunogenic portion.

*Please
enter.*

71. (New) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 70 wherein at least one of the immunogenic amino-terminal polypeptides is from a Group A streptococcal serotype selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28, 30, 48, 49, 52, and 56.

72. (New) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 70 wherein the multivalent immunogenic portion consists of six immunogenic amino-terminal polypeptides of Group A streptococcal M protein from six different streptococcal serotypes.

73. (New) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 72 wherein the six different Group A streptococcal serotypes are 1, 3, 5, 6, 19, and 24.